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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

1993.

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EFFORTS TO REINVIGORATE ACCORD FALTERING

THE LEGISLATURE FAILED TO MUSTER A QUORUM YESTERDAY FOR WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE FIRST OF TWO SESSIONS TO VOTE ON AN AMNESTY LAW

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AND A LAW SEPARATING THE POLICE FROM THE ARMED FORCES, PRESS REPORTS SAY. HAITI'S 17-MEMBER SENATE IS NARROWLY CONTROLLED BY PRO-ARISTIDE MEMBERS, BUT AT LEAST SIX SENATORS ARE IN HIDING, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IS CONTROLLED BY ANTI-ARISTIDE MEMBERS.

COMMENT: TWO PRO-ARISTIDE LEGISLATORS HAD PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TO ATTEND YESTERDAY'S SESSION, BUT SECURITY CONCERNS ALMOST CERTAINLY PROMPTED MOST ARISTIDE SUPPORTERS TO STAY AWAY. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER MALVAL AND ARMY CHIEF CEDRAS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN TOMORROW TO DISCUSS SECURITY FOR THE LEGISLATORS, THE PROSPECTS THAT THE LEGISLATURE WILL COME UP WITH A QUORUM APPEAR INCREASINGLY REMOTE. RIGHTISTS RECOGNIZE THAT THE LEGISLATURE IS A WEAK LINK IN PLANS TO REINVIGORATE THE GOVERNORS ISLAND ACCORD, AND THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO LET PRESSURE ON PRO-ARISTIDE LEGISLATORS SUBSIDE.

WORKING TO DISCREDIT ARISTIDE

A GROUP OF RIGHTIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND ASSORTED DUVA.IERIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE CALLING FOR THE LEGISLATUFE TO TAKE AN OFF.CIAL STAND ON THE QUESTION OF ARISTIDE'S EMOTIONAL FITNESS, LOCAL RADIO REPORTS SAY. THEY ALSO HAVE CONDEMNED THE REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AND HAVE CALLED ON POPE JOHN PAUL II TO ARBITRATE THE CONFLICT. IN ADDITION, THE GROUPS HAVE DECLARED THE GOVERNORS ISLAND ACCORD INOPERATIVE, HAVE ACCUSED THE MALVAL GOVERNMENT OF TREASON, AND HAVE DEMANDED ITS RESIGNATION.

COMMENT: RIGHTISTS' CALLS FOR MEDIATION BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE SIMILAR TO EARLIER STATEMENTS BY <u>CEDRAS</u> AND PROBABLY ARE ONLY PROPAGANDA. THEIR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MALVAL MAY PRESAGE AN ATTEMPTED VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE WHEN THE LEGISLATURE ACHIEVES A QUORUM.

